

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9656

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2059

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PALMA CARLOS

REF: STATE 106145

SUMMARY: AT CORDIAL MEETING PM PALMA CARLOS
CONTINUED EXPRESSIONS OF WELCOME FOR USG SUPPORT.
PRIMARY PREOCCUPATION IS AFRICAN PROBLEM AND PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE IS TERMINATE HOSTILITIES SOONEST. NEW
MINISTER INTERTERRITORIAL AFFAIRS WHO HAS JUST GONE
TO AFRICA WILL JOIN FONMIN IN PAIGC NEGOTIATIONS
MAY 25. END SUMMARY

1. SINCE MEETINGS PRESIDENT AND FONMIN ALREADY
ARRANGED WE REQUESTED MEETING PM YESTERDAY AFTERNOON
AND RECEIVED AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER WITHIN TWO HOURS. SUCH
UNACCUSTOMED ALACRITY INDICATIVE THAT (A) THIS IS INDEED
A NEW PORTUGAL AND (B) NEW GOP EAGER FOR GOOD RELATIONS
WITH US. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM.

2. AT OUTSET THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE BYPLAY AS TO
SIMILARITY OF OUR CAREERS-BOTH NEW TO GOVERNMENT,
BOTH LONG-TIME LAWYERS, BOTH LAW PROFESSORS AND
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BOTH FORMER BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS. HE SAID FROM

NOW ON HE WOULD TALK TO ME AS ONE LAWYER TO ANOTHER
AND THAT WAS THE WAY HE LIKED BEST.

3. AFTER DELIVERING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON
WHICH PM ACKNOWLEDGED APPROPRIATELY, I DELIVERED
MESSAGE SUBSTANTIALLY IN WORDS OF REFTEL EXCEPT THAT
MY HOPE FOR FREQUENT CONTACT WAS WORDED AS CONTACT WITH
HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HIS ONLY INTERRUPTION WAS
WHEN I MENTIONED GOP CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN NATO
AND HE INTERJECTED THAT PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAD MADE
CLEAR FROM START THAT THIS WAS FIRM PRINCIPLE OF HIS
GOVERNMENT AND ALL ITS MEMBERS AGREED.

4. APART FROM EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION AND HOPE FOR
CLOSE CONTINUED RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND WITH
ME PERSONALLY HIS REPLY WAS THAT OF A MAN OVERWHELMED
BY A SEA OF PROBLEMS BUT DETERMINED TO OVERCOME THEM.
SUBSTANTIALLY ALL HIS COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARD
AFRICAN PROBLEM AND URGENCY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE,
PARTICULARLY IN GUINEA-BISSAU. AS TO THIS I
GOT IMPRESSION THAT SINCE FONMIN'S RATHER SUCCESSFUL
RECENT MEETING PAIGC IN DAKAR COMPLICATIONS HAD ARISEN.
HE SAID NEW MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL AFFAIRS HAD
BEEN SENT TO AFRICA TO EXPLORE SITUATION AND WOULD JOIN
FONMIN AT NEGOTIATING SESSION LONDON MAY 25.

5. COMMENT: I THOUGHT PM IMPRESSIVE,
DIGNIFIED, STRONG, AND REASONABLE. WHILE MEETING WENT
VERY LITTLE BEYOND THAT OF PURE COURTESY, IMPRESSION OF
STRONG GOP DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH AND SUPPORT
FROM USG WAS STRENGTHENED. SCOTT

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